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GENERAL CONFERENCE

REPORT OF BOOK COMMITTEE THE FEATURE OF THE DAY.

A Majority of the Delegates Agree that the War Claim Matter Has Been Discussed Beyond Its Merits and Should be Dropped Forever—Bishop Wilson Names the Committees on Rules and Credentials.

Dallas, Tex., May 8.—The second day's session of the M. E. Church conference opened promptly at 9 o'clock this morning. The feature of the day was the report of the Book Committee and the statement of the book agents, Messrs. Barbee & Smith, of Nashville, Tenn., on the "war claim" matter. This report embraced nearly 200 words, and was read by Dr. Collins Denny. The report reiterates and emphasizes the exonerated of Messrs. Barbee & Smith, and E. H. Stahlman that was made by the committee nearly four years ago. General applause greeted the reading of the report, and it is thought a majority of the delegates agree with the Book Committee that the subject has already been discussed beyond its merits and should be dropped forever.

The entire matter is now in the hands of the Committee of the Publishing House interests, which will probably report week after next.

When the conference settled to work to-day there was an immense volume of business before the delegates. Bishop Wilson announced the Committees on Rules and Credentials. The Rev. Adams, of the South Georgia Conference, presented the conference with a gavel made of the wood of the "Wesley oak," under which John Wesley is said to have preached.

A resolution by Secretary Tipton to fix the number of the general conference in accordance to the court decision and declaring this to be the fourteenth the church has held, was defeated.

Memorials were presented from the Tennessee Conference to institute the order of deacons; provided the appointments are made by the bishops, on the pastoral time limit, to extend it definitely under certain conditions where special mission work is to be done; to establish a system of hospitals; and the memorial of 1890 authorizing the return of the war claim to the government. All were referred.

The lengthy report of the book committee is summed up and closed as follows: "If it had failed to secure the fund, what it had power to do so, it would have been guilty of neglecting a plain duty for which any court of equity might have held it liable."

"The fund having been placed in its hands it was not at liberty to permit it to pass out of its possession or beyond its control; and if it had done so, every member assenting to such a proceeding would have been, and justly, held personally responsible."

"Such are the doctrines held and announced by courts of equity in all civilized countries."

"Even if there had been doubt on its part as to whether or not the money should be returned the committee would not and could not have arrogated itself the right to decide. Being satisfied that this money was properly received in payment of a just debt it had no more power to restore it to the treasury of the government than it had to give away to any person or corporation any part of the trust fund in its hands, without incurring personal liability for its return."

"These are the actions of your committee and the reasons thereof."

"Your committee has, in the midst of most difficult conditions tried to do its best to meet the great responsibility committed to its charge in the fear of God and with an eye to the welfare of our beloved church."

THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS.

The Forty-Seventh Session Begins To Day—Education and Home and Foreign Missions the Main Questions for Consideration.

Asheville, N. C., May 8.—The forty-seventh session (57th year) of the Southern Baptist Convention begins here to-morrow. The attendance is large. The first session will be called to order by Hon. W. J. Northen, of Georgia, president of the convention. This convention embraces 19,558 churches in the States east of the Mississippi and south of the Ohio; also in Maryland, the District of Columbia, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Mexico and Cuba.

The convention is not a legislative but an advisory body. Under the denominational teachings of the church the convention does not make laws for its constituency. The delegates meet for co-operation in missionary and educational work. The meetings of several societies and bodies auxiliary to the general convention were held during the day.

The main questions for consideration by the convention will be education and home and foreign missions. Both the home and foreign boards have increased greatly their work during the last year and will report free of debt. It is said that the home board, of which Dr. McConnell, of Atlanta, is secretary, will report a balance of something like \$5000. The report of the foreign board, the headquarters of which is in Nashville, will be made by Dr. R. J. Willingham.

Mr. Northen having declined a reelection as president, there is much speculation among the delegates as to who would be the next presiding officer. Many were of the opinion that Mr. Northen would yet be induced to serve another term.

The Baptist Young People's Union held a meeting this morning. Among the speakers were President John N. Chapman. Mr. Chapman told of the remarkable growth of the organization and predicted even larger growth this year. The association was shown to be in a highly flourishing condition.

STATE AND CAPITAL.

HON. JOSEPH T. LAWLESS A CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS.

Senator Glass May Seek the Nomination as Congressman to Succeed the Late Major Otey—The Final Revision of the New Constitution—The Enlargement of the Penitentiary—Dead Body Identified—Other Matters of Interest.

Richmond, Va., May 8.—The most interesting political announcement to-day was that Hon. Joseph T. Lawless will be a candidate for Congress in the Second District. He was here to-day calling on old friends and authorized the announcement that he would permit his name to be used for the nomination. Mr. Lawless said he had been thinking over this matter for some time and in a few days he would issue an address to the voters of the district announcing his candidacy. Mr. Lawless is one of the most widely known men in the councils of the Democratic party in the State. He was for eight years the secretary of the Commonwealth. When he declined to be a candidate for re-election to that office it was understood that he would not, for several years, become a candidate for any office, but would devote his time to the practice of law at Norfolk. The authorized announcement that he will run for Congress will be quite a surprise in political circles. The Second District is now represented by Harry L. Maynard. The primary for the making of the nomination will be held in July. Dr. J. F. Bryant, of Southampton, and Charles T. Bland, of Portsmouth, will probably be candidates.

Governor Montague went up to Lynchburg to-day to attend the funeral of the late Congressman, Peter J. Otey. He will return to-morrow. It is probable that Carter Glass will return with him. The Governor, shortly after coming back, will issue his writ for a special election to fill the vacancy in the House of Representatives, caused by the death of Major Otey. It is generally believed that Mr. Glass will, upon his arrival here, announce himself a candidate for Congress to succeed Major Otey. He will unquestionably, make a strong run, but Graham Clayton, William P. Barkdale and others, who will oppose him, will have strong backing. This contest gives promise of being one of the most interesting witnessed in the State during many years.

A special from Wise county court house says: "On last night at 8 o'clock Assistant Jailor Strangle, as entering corridor of the jail at this place, with prisoners' supper, his pistol was snatched from him and with it was knocked down by one of the prisoners, overpowered and ten prisoners escaped. Three of the prisoners have been recaptured. Among the number still at large is Robert Fay, colored, who at the last February term of the County Court at this county was convicted and sentenced to be hung for the murder of Dayton Miller, secretary and treasurer of Cranes Nest Coal Company at Toms Creek.

The body of the young man taken out of James river yesterday morning has been fully identified as that of Clifford Allen, of this city. He was 19 years of age and was a machanic working at the factory of the Hasker-Marcuse Company. He had been missing from his home since Saturday. That evening he was seen by several friends and was under the influence of liquor. His family think he was foully dealt with and say there will be arrests.

Marriages: At Amherst, the former home of the bride, Miss Grace Strode, of Lynchburg, to Mr. Chas. C. Newman, of Clemson College, S. C.; at Luray, Miss Annie P. Glenn to Mr. Perry Bumgardner, of Camden, N. J.; at Chatham, Pittsylvania county, Miss Ella K. Vaden to the Rev. R. E. L. Aylor; at Lexington, Miss Laura E. Beeton to Mr. Luther Hildebrand.

Nelson N. Burruss has been granted a divorce from his wife, Ella Burruss, in the Circuit Court of Spotsylvania county. This action grows out of the sensational assault and robbery case of a few months ago, which proved to be unfounded and was invented to throw off suspicion from Mrs. Burruss, who, it was charged, committed the robbery herself.

The commission appointed to arrange for and supervise the enlargement of the penitentiary buildings, to-day selected architects Marye, of Newport News, West and Demmock, of Richmond, to submit competitive plans for the new buildings.

The Committee on Final Revision of the Constitution is making great progress with its work. The sessions are secret and but little that is done is made public. It can be stated, however, that the committee will complete its work by the middle of next week.

Deaths: In New York city, as the result of a fall through an elevator shaft, Mr. Scott Watson, a former resident of Danville, aged 40; suddenly at Staunton, aged 43, Thomas Maloney, a liquor dealer.

A WORDY ENCOUNTER.

PHILIPPINE DISCUSSION TAKES ON AN AMUSING PHASE.

Senators and Occupants of the Galleries of the Senate Convinced in Laughter at Mr. Dolliver's Sarcastic Arraignment of Mr. Carmack—Good Feeling Shown by the Active Participants in the War of Words.

Washington, May 8.—Discussion of the Philippine bill in the Senate while it scarcely abated in bitterness, took on an amusing phase. In a breezy speech, Mr. Dolliver, of Iowa, made such a good natured and yet such a sarcastic arraignment of Mr. Carmack, of Tennessee, that Senators and occupants of the thronged galleries were convulsed with laughter. While, seemingly, considerable temper was aroused by the debate, good feeling was shown by the active participants in the war of words—Mr. Dolliver and Mr. Carmack—who cordially shook hands and laughed over the encounter.

Mr. Burton, of Kansas, concluded the speech, which he began yesterday. He referred as instances of atrocious cruelty, to the battle of Wounded Knee, to the Mountain Meadows massacre, and to the massacre of Union soldiers at Fort Pillow and contended that the action of the American troops in the Philippines was in most instances entirely within the regulations of civilized warfare.

Continuing, Mr. Burton, referred to the "remarkable speech" delivered in the Senate yesterday by Mr. Tillman, of South Carolina. He paid a tribute to the work being done by Booker Washington for the colored race and suggested that if the colored people would follow his advice they would be successful.

MR. VEST CORRECTS HISTORY.

Mr. Vest called attention to the statement of Mr. Tillman, made yesterday, which he said he was compelled to take notice of in justice both to the living and the dead. That statement, which has been found in the public press and upon the lecture platform for the last three years, was that at the historic conference in Hampton Roads in 1864 between President Lincoln, William H. Seward, Secretary of State; Alexander H. Stephens, Vice-President of the Confederate States; R. M. T. Hunter, former United States Senator, and John A. Campbell, formerly Justice of the United States Supreme Court, President Lincoln wrote upon a piece of paper, "Save the union," then handing it to Stephens, said, "Alex, take this paper and fill it up for yourselves the conditions of peace between the two countries."

Mr. Vest said the story had been denied by John H. Reagan, of Texas, who was the last surviving member of the Confederate Cabinet.

He knew personally, said Mr. Vest, without having been present at that celebrated interview, that the incident was without the slightest foundation. "If true," said he, "it would place the government and officers of the Confederate States in the category of criminals, because it offered the Confederacy all that it ever demanded in the wildest hope of the most extreme partisans of that cause if they would only return to the union."

THE HAMPTON ROADS CONFERENCE.

A deep silence had fallen upon the chamber and every Senator on the floor listened to him with rapt attention. With great deliberateness, he continued: "If true it would mean that the Confederates could have placed in that sheet of paper the perpetual establishment of slavery and the right of secession, the most extreme demand that had ever taken locality even in the dream of any Confederate." From the lips of Stephens and Hunter had come to him, he said, the details of what had taken place. Upon the return of the commissioners of the Confederacy he heard their official report as Mr. Reagan heard it, he being a member of the Cabinet and himself a member of the Confederate Senate. "I am to-day the only survivor of twenty-six gentlemen who acted as Confederate Senators," he said. Mr. Vest then stated what did happen at Hampton Roads beyond question was: When the President and Mr. Seward met the commissioners of the Confederacy Mr. Lincoln addressing himself to Mr. Hunter, whom he knew well: "In the first place, gentlemen, I desire to know what are your powers and instructions from the Richmond government," avoiding, said Mr. Vest, as Mr. Hunter told him, himself, the words "Confederate States."

Mr. Hunter, to whom the inquiry was addressed, said: "Mr. President, we are instructed to consider no proposition that does not involve the independence of the Confederate States of America."

"Then," said Mr. Lincoln, "the interview had as well terminate now, for I must say to you gentlemen, frankly and honestly, that nothing will be accepted from the government at Richmond except absolute and unconditional surrender."

THE INTERVIEW TERMINATED.

Mr. Vest then said that this terminated the interview as the Confederate commissioners retired, President Lincoln, addressing Stephens, who was the last to go out, said:

"Stephens you are making a great mistake. Your government is a failure, and when the crash comes, as it soon will come, there will be chaos and disasters which we cannot foresee which must come to your people."

"This account of the interview," continued Mr. Vest, "substantially and almost word for word as I have given it, came to me from Mr. Stephens and Mr. Hunter."

Mr. Vest said that he considered it his duty to make this statement in order that history may not be falsified; in order that the men who are said to have refused this offer at the hands of President Lincoln should not be made to sin in their graves, adding: "I refused what was said

to have been tendered to them by the President, they would have been accessories to the murder of every man who fell from that time in defense of the Confederate cause, and they should have given the lie to the intention which they professed when they risked everything, everything that is held dear amongst men in defense of the Confederate cause."

While the deep silence still reigned in the chamber, he spoke, and with every eye directed toward him, Mr. Vest concluded: "It may be but a very short time until I shall join the twenty-five colleagues I had in the Confederate Senate, and I did not want this statement to go into the record of this country without my statement of these facts and my solemn denial that there is a shadow of truth in this assertion which has been going the rounds of the newspapers of the country for the last few years."

FUNSTON DENOUNCED.

The discussion of the Philippine bill then resumed, and Mr. Carmack, of Tennessee, replying to Mr. Burton, made a bitter denunciation of General Funston. He said he did not question his physical courage, but a few acts of dare devilry in the Philippines did not make him a hero.

When Funston had stated that Aguinaldo had burned three hundred people alive at one time, said Mr. Carmack, he told a deliberate and premeditated lie. In his opinion, he said, Funston is not to be believed upon any question whatever.

The sudden waking up of the Republicans, he said, was for the deliberate purpose of reviving sectional hate in order to direct this debate and the attention of the people from the proper topics which have been permitted in the Philippines.

"I suppose it is in obedience to instructions from the White House," he said, "that the effort is being made to reopen the wounds of the country that have been healed."

Facing the Republican side and speaking with evident emotion, Mr. Carmack said: "I shall be ready to meet every slanderer of the South and every defamer of its honor, whether the assailant comes from some part of the country beyond the borders of the South or whether it be some recalcitrant and degenerate son who has proved a traitor to the womb and bosom of his mother."

After stating that he would not be diverted from the issue now before the Senate by the falsehoods brought into the debate, Mr. Carmack said, referring to the charges of lynchings, etc., in the South: "You cannot help us by denunciation. The best thing you can do is to keep your mouths shut and let us alone."

THE ORDERS OF DEATH.

Turning his attention to the Philippine question, and especially to the speech of Mr. Lodge, Mr. Carmack said that the Massachusetts Senator was so narrow that he could not have a proper appreciation of the arguments that have been made against the present Philippine policy. He declared that Mr. Lodge was dishonoring the American army and the Senate by defending orders which looked to the murder of women and children. Such orders of death—a brutal and inhuman order—could not be justified by anybody; yet these were the orders which Senators had the "devilish impudence" to justify.

"Does the Senator think," inquired Mr. Spooner, "that the phrase 'devilish impudence' is proper under the rules of the Senate?"

"No, I do not," said Mr. Carmack. "And I withdraw the expression."

GENERAL SMITH A BUTCHER.

Mr. Carmack, quoting from the speech of Mr. Lodge, said that the Massachusetts Senator had not suggested any reason why General Smith should not be hanged as a common murderer.

"Smith has not," said Mr. Carmack, "burned people at the stake. He has done nothing but butcher a whole people in cold blood. He has dishonored the whole American army." He declared that the United States was entering upon a century, perhaps three centuries of constant warfare, for no other result than that a few carpet-bag thieves might have opportunity to rob the people of the Philippine Islands as they used to rob the people of the South.

Mr. Forsaker interrupted to inquire if Mr. Carmack thought it was the purpose of President McKinley in taking over the Philippine Islands to provide a theatre of secoundrelism.

Mr. Carmack replied that Mr. McKinley's purpose was that of "benevolent assimilation," "the purpose of the Republican party now is malevolent dissimulation." (Laughter.)

Mr. Dolliver then read an editorial from a Memphis newspaper upon Mr. Carmack's recent speech on the Philippine question, in which that paper took sharp issue with the Tennessee Senator as to his conclusions. Mr. Dolliver's comments upon the editorial as he read it were highly amusing, and both the Senators on the floor and the people in the gallery laughed heartily at his sarcastic allusions.

In reply Mr. Carmack said that he had no idea of "losing jawbones with the redoubtable tongue slinger from Iowa." He said that where his language was not witty his gestures were ridiculous. "So far as his argument is concerned," said the Tennessee Senator, "he might just as well have been swinging by his prehensile tail from a leafy bough."

The speech, he declared, was accompanied by simian gestures and was of little force or effect so far as the main question was concerned. He said that the newspaper from which Mr. Dolliver read is owned largely by Luke E. Wright, a member of the Philippine commission. He charged that Mr. Dolliver in his speech justified murder in the Philippines and defended the order of General Smith.

Smithers—Brown has finished a course of immunizing himself against all diseases.

Withers—Was it effective? Smithers—Undoubtedly, unless they have some new ones in spirit land.

Miscellaneous.

A LITTLE GIRL ASSAULTED.

Evanston, Wyo., May 8.—The ten-year-old daughter of George Hawkins was assaulted this evening by a negro tramp. A large body of citizens are now searching for the negro with the intention of lynching him.

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